

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of controlling a safe having open and closed states, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic lock for said safe through which a plurality of different types of transactions can be performed, including at least (a) currency processing and (b) changing of the state of the safe;

providing a control unit external to said safe and coupled to said electronic lock for communication between the control unit and the electronic lock[;] .

said control unit monitoring said transactions with said electronic lock to allow a determination to be made through the control unit that a transaction has been performed;

sending user identification information to the control unit to verify authority of a user to send signals to the electronic lock from the control unit;

receiving sending signals at to said electronic lock from said control unit after authority of a user to send signals from the control unit to the electronic lock has been verified; and

controlling said safe remotely from the safe in response to said signals to perform ~~a transaction~~ the transactions without requiring intervention by a user of the safe at the safe.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of sending an unlock signal to said electronic lock from said control unit.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of sending an unlock signal comprises sending an unlock signal after receiving a user ID and a PIN.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising a step of encrypting said PIN.

5. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising a step of saving at least a portion of said signals in an audit database.

6-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [8] 1 further comprising ~~a step~~ the steps of receiving login information at the control unit and saving said login information in a database.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim [8] 1 further including the step of enabling a user to select an open door option, wherein said step of enabling a user to select an open door option comprises displaying an open door on said control unit.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [8] 1 further including the step of enabling a user to select an open door option, wherein said step of enabling a user to

select an open door option comprises providing a predetermined location on said control unit for enabling the user to select the open door option.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of providing a predetermined location comprises providing a secret location on a computer screen.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim [8] 1 further including the step of enabling a user to select an open door option, wherein said step of enabling a user to select an open door option comprises enabling entry of an override response key.

14-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim [18] 1 further including a step of receiving login information at said control unit.

20. (cancelled)

21. (original) The method of claim 19 further comprising a step of saving said login information in a database.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim [18] 1 further including a step of displaying an open door option on said control unit.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein said step of displaying a open door option comprises selecting a secret location on a computer display for unlocking said safe.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 further comprising a step of receiving login information after said secret location is selected on said computer display.

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) The method of claim [18] 1 further comprising a step of providing a status of said electronic lock to said control unit.

27. (currently amended) An apparatus for controlling a safe having open and closed states, said apparatus comprising:

an electronic lock incorporated in said safe through which a plurality of different types of transactions can be performed, including at least (a) currency processing and (b) changing of the state of the safe;

an input/output port coupled to said electronic lock;

a control unit external to said safe coupled to said input/output port for monitoring said transactions with said electronic lock to allow a determination to be made through the control unit that a transaction has been performed; and

a control signal received at said input/output port from said control unit remotely from the safe for controlling said electronic lock to cause the transactions to be performed without requiring intervention by a user of the safe at the safe.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said control unit comprises a computer.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said computer comprises a remote computer coupled to said input/output port by way of a communication network.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said remote computer further comprises a communication circuit.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said remote computer further comprises a memory.

32. (original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said memory comprises a database having encrypted PIN information.

33. (original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said electronic lock further comprises a communication circuit.

34. (cancelled)

35. (new) The system for controlling a safe according to claim 31 wherein the memory is capable of storing monitored information received by the control unit in an audit trail database.